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## CLAIMS

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is the following:

1 1.	A space-saving scar	mer assembly, comprising
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- a housing having a substantially vertical source-contact surface with a channel extending therefrom; and
- a flap coupled to the source-contact surface, the flap having a source-backing surface substantially parallel to the source-contact surface of the housing, wherein the source-contact surface, the source-backing surface, and the channel form an opening for receiving an edge of a source to be scanned.
- The assembly of claim 1, wherein a portion of the vertical sourcecontact surface of the housing comprises a platen to permit scanning of a source document in a vertical position.
- 3. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the housing contains a front panel with an inclined surface adjacent to the opening, the inclined surface forming a wider opening at the surface of the front panel.
- 4. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the flap includes an inclined surface adjacent to the opening, the inclined surface arranged to increase the opening along a front edge of the flap, wherein the front edge is substantially perpendicular to the source-backing surface.
  - The assembly of claim 1, wherein the flap includes a slot.
- The assembly of claim 1, wherein the flap includes a clip arranged to receive a portion of a source to be scanned.

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- The assembly of claim 1, wherein the housing further comprises a
  recess configured to receive a portion of the channel when the source-backing surface
  is in close proximity to the source-contact surface.
  - 8. The assembly of claim 2, wherein the platen has an upper edge, an opposing lower edge, a front edge relatively coexistent with a front panel of the housing and a distal edge and wherein the channel is adjacent to the lower edge of the platen.
- 9. The assembly of claim 8, wherein the channel has a first end proximal to a front panel of the housing and a distal end that extends at least to the distal edge of the platen.
- 10. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the flap is coupled to the housing with at least one post assembly having a plurality of spatially-separated detent positions.
- 11. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the flap is coupled to the housing with at least one adjustable fastener for closely contacting the source-backing surface to the source-contact surface.
- 12. The assembly of claim 5, wherein the slot is positioned to permit the placement of a relatively short source document on edge on the channel wherein information to be scanned is aligned with at least a portion of the platen.
- 13. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the housing is configured to extend the channel from the source-contact surface when an operator adjusts the sourcebacking surface in relation to the source-contact surface to increase the width of the opening.

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- 1 14. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the width of the proximal end of the channel increases over that portion of the channel that extends beyond the platen.
- 1 The assembly of claim 1, wherein the channel is coated with a material having a relatively low coefficient of friction.
  - A space-saving scanner assembly, comprising:
- 2 means for optically scanning and converting image data into a digital data 3 representation of a source:
- 4 means for spatially adjusting a source to be scanned with the means for optical 5 scanning; and
  - means for supporting the source along an edge of said source during a scanning operation.
  - The assembly of claim 16, wherein the source edge support means comprises a channel.
- 1 18. The assembly of claim 16, wherein the adjusting means comprises a 2 slot.
- 1 19. The assembly of claim 16, wherein the adjusting means comprises a
- 2 first inclined surface associated with a housing and a second inclined surface
- 3 associated with a flap.

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1	<ol><li>A method for saving space on a desktop, comprising:</li></ol>	
2	providing an optical scanner having a housing, the housing having a	
3	substantially vertical source-contact surface with a channel extending therefrom, the	
4	vertical source-contact surface including a transparent platen portion, the channel	
5	adjacent to a lower edge of the transparent platen; and	
6	providing a flan coupled to the source-contact surface, the flan having a	

providing a flap coupled to the source-contact surface, the flap having a source-backing surface substantially parallel to the source-contact surface of the housing, wherein the source-contact surface, the source-backing surface, and the channel form an opening for receiving an edge of a source to be scanned.

## 21. The method of claim 20, further comprising:

inserting a leading edge of a source to be scanned into the opening formed by the source-contact surface, the flap, and the channel such that source is supported along an edge by the channel.

## 22. The method of claim 21, further comprising:

spatially arranging the flap and the housing wherein pressure is applied to a non-scan surface of the source and the scan surface of the source closely contacts the platen.

- 1 23. The method of claim 22, further comprising: 2 enabling the optical scanner.
  - The method of claim 23, further comprising:

2 spatially arranging the flap and the housing wherein pressure is removed from

3 the non-scan surface of the source.

25. The method of claim 24, further comprising:

removing the source from the opening.